

## PRAIRIE

3	Western Grasshopper Sparrows
26	Western Lark Sparrows
2	Western Blue Grosbeaks
137	Dickcissels
6	Western Mockingbirds
1	Brown Thrasher
20	Unknown

20 species; 416 in all.

## WOODS

3	Cardinals
2	Summer Tanagers
10	Purple Martins
1	Red-eyed Vireo
28	Western Mockingbirds
1	Carolina Wren
1	Tufted Titmouse
1	Plumbeous Chickadee
24	Bluebirds

24 species; 135 in all.

## AN ANNOTATED LIST OF THE LAND BIRDS OF SAC COUNTY, IOWA

BY J. A. SPURRELL, OF WALL LAKE, IOWA

### PART II

This paper concludes a local list of the land birds of Sac county, the first part of which appeared in the Wilson Bulletin, Vol. XXXI, No. 4 (December, 1919).

**Harris Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia querula*).

The Harris sparrow is a regular and abundant migrant both spring and fall. Since its migration range is so restricted, I give all the migration data I have obtained, in the table below:

#### SPRING MIGRATION

Year	When first seen	About No. 1st seen	Next seen	Became Common	Last seen	Remarks
1909	3-29	1	4-4	5-8	5-17	
1910	5-1	4	5-6	5-12	5-24	
1911	4-2	1	4-6	5-8	5-13	They were common at an earlier date, which I failed to record.
1912	5-3	3	5-4		5-20	I failed to record the missing date.
1913	5-1	3	5-2	5-8	5-22	
1914	3-29	3			5-24	I failed to record the missing dates.
1915	5-2	4	5-7			I failed to record the missing dates.

#### FALL MIGRATION

1908	9-23	5	9-27	10-4	11-8	Last one seen could not fly, as it had a broken wing.
1909	9-25	10	9-29	10-4	10-31	
1910	10-1	20	10-2	10-8	11-4	
1911	10-1	20	10-3	10-7		Field to record last date.
1912	9-16	10		10-12	11-10	First seen by Mrs. E. B. Hayden.
1913	10-2					Failed to secure other dates.

Although the dates of arrival vary widely, the dates of departure vary but little.

In the fall the dates of both arrival and departure are fairly close year after year.

The Harris Sparrow frequents groves, thickets, and hedges of willow trees, delighting in brushy places with plenty of cover. It spends much of its time scratching on the ground. In the spring it often perches in the trees from ten to fifteen feet above the ground to utter its peculiar song, usually singing in the evening.

**White-crowned Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*).

A tolerably common migrant frequenting groves and brushy places. My first seen dates cover the period from April 26 to May 10. Mrs. E. B. Hayden reported one seen on July 10, 1913.

**Intermediate or Gambel's Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli*).

Noted only once, May 1, 1912. On this day I was watching a sparrow which I took to be a white-crowned sparrow, through the eight-power binoculars at close range, but I soon saw that it was not, as the white crown was not large enough, there was no black line in front of the eye, and the lores were wholly white. Its song was similar to the white-throat's song. The bird stayed about the grove all day.

**White-throated Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia albicollis*).

This species is the most abundant of all the native sparrows in both spring and fall migrations. It is abundant in every grove and hedge, and even in the tall weeds along the fences. First seen dates in spring are from April 18 to May 3. It has a habit of frequenting pine or spruce trees to roost and the first sign of its arrival is usually its sharp call note, frequently repeated just before it goes to roost at dusk.

**Tree Sparrow** (*Spizella monticola monticola*).

An abundant migrant and winter resident. In very severe winters of abundant snowfall it is usually scarce or absent during the months of January and February. I have seen it first in the fall from October 24 to November 6. In the spring, last seen dates vary from March 20 to May 6.

**Chipping Sparrow** (*Spizella passerina passerina*).

This sparrow is a common migrant and a rare breeder. First seen dates are from April 16 to May 11. At two different times in the town of Wall Lake I have seen the young only recently from the nest and still being fed by the parents.

**Clay-colored Sparrow** (*Spizella pallida*).

A common but rather inconspicuous migrant. I have not noted it in the fall. In the spring it frequents groves and shrubbery. First seen dates are from May 2 to 13.

**Field Sparrow** (*Spizella pusilla pusilla*).

Mrs. George May reported this species as common in the willows along the Boyer river in the spring of 1912.

**Slate-colored Junco** (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*).

A very abundant spring and fall migrant. First seen dates in spring vary from March 3 to March 20, with the exception of one seen only on the day of January 6, 1913. Last seen dates in the spring are from April 9 to 23. In the fall first seen dates are from September 29 to October 8; last seen dates from November 5 to 17. Mr. Joe Abernathy reported that juncos are to be found in the timber at Sac City until February 1.

**Montana Junco** (*Junco montanus*).

I identified one individual of this species October 17, 1915. Following is the record entered in my notebook at the time: "I saw one through the kitchen window while it was sitting only four feet away in the boxelder tree. I saw the pink sides very distinctly and its back was more grayish than the ordinary junco's is."

**Song Sparrow** (*Melospiza melodia melodia*).

A common migrant. First seen dates in spring range from March 29 to April 25.

**Lincoln Sparrow** (*Melospiza lincolni lincolni*).

Another common but very inconspicuous migrant. First seen dates vary from May 3 to 10. I have usually seen it creeping about in the grass under or near trees or shrubbery.

**Swamp Sparrow** (*Melospiza georgiana*).

A common migrant and breeder. I have seen it only in marshes where there is standing water, or a very tall dense growth of slough grass. April 18 is my earliest first seen date. During the nesting season its clear song is a very pleasing feature of the marshes it frequents.

**Fox Sparrow** (*Passerella iliaca iliaca*).

A tolerably common spring and fall migrant. First seen dates in spring are from March 15 to April 11.

**Towhee** (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*).

A rare and rather irregular migrant at Wall Lake. My first dates are from March 21 to April 27. I have found the species in the woods at Sac City throughout the summer. Mr. Joe Abernathy reports it as common and nesting at Sac City.

**Cardinal** (*Cardinalis cardinalis cardinalis*).

I have never seen this species at Wall Lake, but Mr. C. Orville Lee and Joe Abernathy both reported it at Sac City. The latter stated that a pair spent the winter of 1913-1914 in Sac City and nested there the following summer. They can only be called rare residents of recent arrival.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (*Zamelodia ludoviciana*).

A common migrant and nesting species. My first seen dates are from May 1 to 20. Nearly every farm grove has its pair of grosbeaks, and they are also common in the trees of the towns.

**Indigo Bunting** (*Passerina cyanea*).

A rare breeder and migrant. A pair once nested in the town of Wall Lake. I have found them tolerably common in June and July along the Raccoon river at Sac City. Mr. Joe Abernathy also reported seeing four pairs there.

**Dickcissel** (*Spiza americana*).

An abundant migrant and breeder. First seen dates vary from May 3 to 27. It usually nests in the hayfields, although sometimes nesting in the tall grass of pastures or along fence rows. I have found only one nest placed directly on the ground and that was on top of a "bog" in a wet pasture. Usually the nests are placed a few inches up among the grass or weed stems. The nests are frequently destroyed by the early cutting of clover fields. I have found many of the eggs while loading hay.

**Lark Bunting** (*Calamospiza melanocorys*).

I first identified this species May 19, 1908, when I saw three males in a flock with some cowbirds. They were about the size of bobolinks and had the white wing patches characteristic of lark buntings with all the rest of the plumage black. I did not see it again until May 9, 1914, when I saw one male and heard it sing. On the 22d I again saw one male; either the same or another, I am not sure which.

**Scarlet Tanager** (*Piranga erythromelas*).

The scarlet tanager is a rare migrant at Wall Lake. I have seen it only three times: May 22, 1905, June 9, 1907, and May 18, 1909. Mr. Lee reports it as a rare nesting species at Sac City. Mr. Joe Abernathy reported seeing four pairs there.

**Purple Martin** (*Progne subis subis*).

A common nesting species in the various towns of the country. Only in the fall, previous to migration, does it range any distance over the surrounding country. First seen dates in spring are from April 15 to 29.

**Cliff Swallow** (*Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*).

An abundant migrant and formerly a common breeder. Although I think it still nests in some parts of the county, I do not know of any definite nesting records in recent years. First seen dates in spring are from April 29 to May 27. In the fall it is abundant, flying over low pastures along the streams in company with barn, bank, and tree swallows.

**Barn Swallow** (*Hirundo erythrogastra*).

A common migrant and breeder. Nearly every farmer's barn and most bridges have this swallow's nest in or underneath them.

Two broods are usually reared each summer. First seen dates are from April 15 to May 11.

**Tree Swallow** (*Iridoprocne bicolor*).

At times, a very abundant migrant, and a rare breeder. I have found only two nests, one of them in a bird box attached to a farm building, and the other in an old woodpecker hole in a fence post along a railroad track. First seen dates vary from April 18 to May 12. In the fall it is often to be found in enormous numbers about Wall lake and the "Goosepond."

**Bank Swallow** (*Riparia riparia*).

This species is common in some localities. The bank swallow nests in the high banks along the shores of Wall lake, and at several other places where there are steep banks or gravel pits in proximity to water. First seen dates vary from April 26 to May 15.

**Rough-winged Swallow** (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*).

A common breeder along the Raccoon river, but I have never found it nesting elsewhere except that for a few years two pairs nested in holes in a cement bridge on my father's farm near Wall Lake. First seen dates are from April 28 to May 30.

**Bohemian Waxwing** (*Bombycilla garrula*).

Specimen in the Smith collection. A very rare or casual spring migrant. Before I started to keep notes, a flock of about fifteen visited the orchard in the spring. I can very distinctly remember the beautiful dull gray of their soft plumage. Following is my only note book entry: "May 27, 1909, I saw three Bohemian waxwings about 9 a. m.. They stayed in the tops of a couple of apple trees for a long time, eating apple blossom petals. At times they uttered a note which sounded like a shrill 'chee' to me."

**Cedar Waxwing** (*Bombycilla cedrorum*).

I have identified it only once, June 3, 1909, when I approached within ten feet of one which was catching small flying insects. It was much darker in plumage than the Bohemian waxwings I saw a few days before. Mrs. H. B. Smith reported cedar waxwings as common in the spring about a cedar hedge, upon the berries of which they fed.

**Migrant Shrike** (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*).

A tolerably common breeder. It is not a winter resident except in rare instances. I have referred all the shrikes to this subspecies as it is the common form, although I have seen shrikes in which the rump was white or very light colored.

**Red-eyed Vireo** (*Vireosylva olivacea*).

Reported by Mrs. George May as common in the spring of 1912.

**Warbling Vireo** (*Vireosylva gilva gilva*).

Reported by Mrs. George May as very common in the spring of 1912. My sister, Rubby Spurrell, has first dates for this species from May 3 to 25. Mr. Joe Abernathy reported finding two nests north of Wall lake. I identified it May 15, 1915, largely by its song.

**Blue-headed Vireo** (*Laurivireo solitarius solitarius*).

Reported by Mrs. George May as rare. My sister has seen it on May 8, 1913, and May 15, 1914.

**White-eyed Vireo** (*Vireo griseus griseus*).

Reported by Mrs. George May as rare.

**Black and White Warbler** (*Mniotilta varia*).

A common and regular migrant in spring and fall. As it creeps about the tree trunks it is quite conspicuous as compared with many warblers. My first seen dates vary from May 2 to 15.

**Blue-winged Warbler** (*Vermivora pinus*).

Mrs. George May reported three seen in the spring of 1912.

**Nashville Warbler** (*Vermivora rubricapilla rubricapilla*).

I first identified this species from a dead specimen. It is a tolerably common migrant when present, but was not observed five years out of eight. First seen from May 14 to 22.

**Orange-crowned Warbler** (*Vermivora celata celata*).

A rare migrant. I first identified it May 23, 1915. It is difficult to be certain of a sight identification of this species, but I saw the "orange" on the head of this particular one several times.

**Tennessee Warbler** (*Vermivora peregrina*).

Mrs. George May reported several seen in 1912. I identified it May 16, 1915. It is a tolerably common migrant.

**Northern Parula Warbler** (*Compothlypis americana usneae*).

This warbler is a rare migrant. I identified it May 13, 1913, when I obtained an excellent view of one out of a number, thru the field glasses. They were part of a "wave" of all kinds of warblers.

**Cape May Warbler** (*Dendroica tigrina*).

I first identified it positively May 4, 1915, although I have had glimpses of it in previous years. My sister has also observed it in years when I did not see it. It is a rare migrant.

**Yellow Warbler** (*Dendroica aestiva aestiva*).

An abundant migrant and common breeder. First seen dates vary from April 30 to May 12. It nests commonly in shrubbery and the nests often contain cowbird eggs. It has been my experience that the warbler always deserts its nest if the cowbird's egg is removed.

**Myrtle Warbler** (*Dendroica coronata*).

Ordinarily a common to abundant migrant, but in some years is almost rare. First seen dates are from April 15 to May 3.

**Magnolia Warbler** (*Dendroica magnolia*).

Ordinarily a common to abundant migrant, but it varies much in numbers from year to year, and was not noted three years out of eight. First seen dates vary from May 10 to 23.

**Cerulean Warbler** (*Dendroica cerulea*).

I have no recent records, but there is a specimen in the Smith collection that was taken locally.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** (*Dendroica pensylvanica*).

A tolerably common migrant, but very irregular as to occurrence, being noted only three years out of eight. First seen dates are May 22, 1910; May 26, 1913; and May 24, 1915.

**Bay-breasted Warbler** (*Dendroica castanea*).

A rare migrant. I identified it May 18, 1909, and my sister saw one May 13, 1913.

**Black-poll Warbler** (*Dendroica striata*).

A common and fairly regular migrant, being observed six years out of nine years of observation. First seen dates range from May 10 to 21.

**Blackburnian Warbler** (*Dendroica fusca*).

A rare migrant. I identified it in life May 14, 1913, when I saw two males. A few years before this I examined a female specimen which a neighbor's cat had caught.

**Sycamore Warbler** (*Dendroica dominica albiflora*).

Mrs. George May and her mother, Mrs. E. B. Hayden, saw one in Wall Lake May 13, 1913. This was during a great migration "wave" of warblers and other birds. Mr. Joe Abernathy reported one at Sac City.

**Black-throated Green Warbler** (*Dendroica virens*).

I first observed this species August 31, 1912, seeing an adult female which I observed closely from a short distance. In the spring I saw one May 12, 1913, and my sister saw the species May 15, 1911, and May 22, 1913. It is a rare migrant.

**Palm Warbler** (*Dendroica palmarum palmarum*).

A rare migrant. My first identification was May 3, 1911, when I saw two in Odebolt. I did not record it again until May 2, 1915.

**Oven-bird** (*Sciurus aurocapillus*).

A rare migrant. I first observed it May 26, 1910, and again May 12, 1914. My sister saw one May 11, 1914.

**Water-Thrush or Grinnell's Water-Thrush** (*Sciurus noveboracensis noveboracensis* and *noveboracensis notabilis*).

As it is impossible to distinguish between these subspecies without killing the bird, I include them both under one heading. A rare migrant. First identified May 15, 1913, and seen again May 10, 1914.

**Louisiana Water-Thrush** (*Sciurus motacilla*).

A rare migrant. I identified it on May 27, 1910, in the old railroad gravelpit south of Lake View.

**Mourning Warbler** (*Oporornis philadelphia*).

A rare migrant. I have seen three males, getting close enough to all of them to see the black throat patch which distinguishes it from the Connecticut warbler. Dates seen: May 4, 1911; May 26, 1913; May 23, 1915.

**Maryland Yellow-throat** (*Geothlypis trichas trichas*).

A common regular migrant and a rare breeder. I have found the nest built in slough grass in a wet slough. First seen dates range from May 6 to 19.

**Yellow-breasted Chat** (*Icteria virens virens*).

Mrs. E. B. Hayden reported seeing one at Sac City.

**Wilson Warbler** (*Wilsonia pusilla pusilla*).

A tolerably common and regular migrant. First seen dates vary from May 10 to 20.

**Canada Warbler** (*Wilsonia canadensis*).

A rare migrant. Seen by my sister on the following dates: May 20, 1912; May 26, 1913; May 23, 1914.

**Redstart** (*Setophaga ruticilla*).

A common and fairly regular migrant, being absent only two years out of nine. First seen dates are from May 12 to 22.

**Pipit or Titlark** (*Anthus rubescens*).

A rare and irregular migrant. I have always observed it on bare or plowed ground, and have never seen a flock of more than thirty. First seen dates are from May 10 to 15. I have also seen it in the fall.

**Catbird** (*Dumetella carolinensis*).

A common migrant and breeder. First seen dates covering twelve years vary from May 2 to 16.

**Brown Thrasher** (*Torostoma rufum*).

A common migrant and a common nesting species. First seen dates vary from April 19 to May 5.

**Western House Wren** (*Troglodytes aedon parkmani*).

A common migrant and breeder, usually rearing two broods in a season, and nearly every farmstead has its pair of wrens. First seen dates range from April 9 and 25 to May 12. The April 9 date is an exceptionally early record.

**Winter Wren** (*Tannus hiemalis hiemalis*).

Only one record. I identified one October 18, 1908, in some willows along a small creek.

**Short-billed Marsh Wren** (*Cistothorus stellaris*).

A common migrant and also a common breeder in suitable sloughs. It will nest in sloughs where there is no standing water.



while the long-billed marsh wren will not, or at least, does not in this locality. It is very difficult to identify because of its habit of constantly bobbing back into the grass. After the first identification, it is easily told by its actions and song.

**Prairie Marsh Wren** (*Telmatorhytes palustris iliacus*).

This subspecies of the long-billed marsh wren is a tolerably common summer resident about Wall lake and its inlet. I have no migration data for this and the preceding species because I live too far from their haunts.

**Brown Creeper** (*Certhia familiaris americana*).

A tolerably common migrant and a rare winter resident. It usually appears in November and departs in March or April.

**White-breasted Nuthatch** (*Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*).

A tolerably common winter resident and possibly a summer resident in the woods along the Raccoon river.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** (*Sitta canadensis*).

A very rare migrant. One was seen by my sister May 8, 1911.

**Black-capped Chickadee** (*Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*).

A common winter resident and a rare breeder in the vicinity of Wall Lake. I know of two different broods successfully reared in this vicinity. It is probably more common as a breeder in the woods.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** (*Regulus satrapa satrapa*).

A rare spring and fall migrant. First seen dates in spring are: March 23 and April 19; in fall, November 11 and 17.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** (*Regulus calendula calendula*).

A common spring and fall migrant. First seen dates in spring are from April 10 to 27. I have frequently seen it flash its ruby crown in spring, and occasionally heard it sing, but never knew it to do either of these in the fall. Its song is surprisingly loud and clear for so small a bird.

**Wood Thrush** (*Hylocichla mustelina*).

A tolerably common migrant and breeder. It usually nests in orchard trees. First seen dates vary from May 6 to 11.

**Gray-checked Thrush** (*Hylocichla aliciae aliciae*).

A common or even abundant migrant the two or three days it is here in May. Also reported common by Mrs. George May.

**Olive-backed Thrush** (*Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*).

A common to abundant migrant the two or three days it is here in May. It is found at the same time as the gray-checked thrush. Also reported common by Mrs. George May.

**Robin** (*Plauesticus migratorius migratorius*).

An abundant migrant and breeder. In the year 1912 a few wintered. First seen dates cover the period from February 28 to March 29.

**Bluebird (*Sialia sialis sialis*).**

A rare migrant and breeder in the vicinity of Wall Lake. I have noted it oftener of late years than formerly. Along the Raccoon river it is much more common. First seen dates are from March 5 to April 26, with May 12 and 30 as extra late dates.

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**NOTES ON THE DISTRIBUTION AND MIGRATION  
OF NEBRASKA BIRDS****I. TYRANT FLYCATCHERS (*Tyrannidae*)**

BY MYRON H. SWENK AND RALPH W. DAWSON

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Muscivora forficata* (Gmelin).**

Although this striking bird is a common summer resident and breeder from southern Kansas southward, it has always been considered as of purely accidental occurrence in Nebraska. In fact, prior to the present year, there are but two known instances of its having been seen in the state. The first of these was in the fall of 1872, when L. Bruner observed a single specimen of this species south of Lincoln. The bird was very clearly seen, and, as the observer was familiar with the species, no doubt has ever attached to this record. (*Bruner, Some Notes on Nebraska Birds*, 1896, p. 114.)

The second record of this species for the state was made by Mr. Charles Armstrong in the spring of 1913. Mr. Armstrong was at the time a student in the Nebraska School of Agriculture, and during April of that year, while he was disking in the field on a farm near Greenwood, Nebraska, he saw and carefully observed one of these birds, which he had never before seen or even heard of. On returning to school he gave a very accurate description of the bird to R. W. Dawson, including the scissor-like tail and scarlet sides, and when shown the plate of this species which appeared in *Bird-Lore*, ix, No. 6, he at once recognized it as representing the bird he had seen. This second record, heretofore unpublished, has likewise been fully accepted by Nebraska ornithologists. However, in both the above cases the birds noted were apparently stragglers.

On May 30, 1921, while Dr. D. C. Hilton of Lincoln, was waiting outside the main entrance gate to Capital Beach he noted a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, from the plumage evidently a female, and discovered it had a nest in the last tree of a row of small elms bordering the driveway after passing through the entrance gate. He observed the bird long and carefully, and later on in the same day both Dr. Hilton and M. H. Swenk visited the place again, this time flushing the flycatcher from her nest, which was